



# OUR NEIGHBORS IN JAPAN



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# ***OUR NEIGHBORS IN JAPAN***

John C. Caldwell  
and  
Elsie F. Caldwell

*Illustrated by Heidi Ogawa*

THE JOHN DAY COMPANY

New York

*By John C. Caldwell*

LET'S VISIT AMERICANS OVERSEAS

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LET'S VISIT JAPAN

LET'S VISIT MIDDLE AFRICA

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*By John C. Caldwell  
and Elsie F. Caldwell*

LET'S VISIT KOREA

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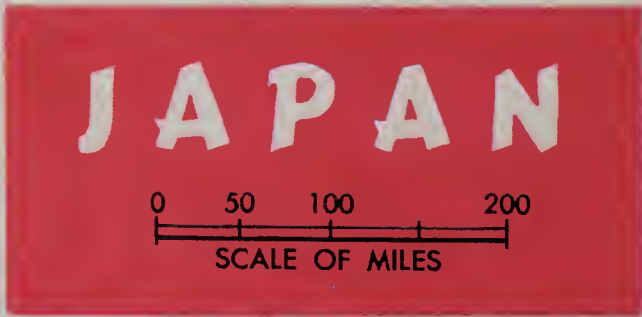
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Don Pitcher



## *Our Neighbors in Japan*

Sometimes boys and girls fight. Even grownups have fights and quarrels. Countries are like people. Sometimes one country has a quarrel with another country. When one country fights with another, there may be a war. Soldiers fight each other. Men are killed when countries go to war.

Once upon a time our country had a war with a country named Japan. But now our countries are friends again. That's like people, isn't it? Boys and girls may have a fight. Then they become good friends again.

The people who live in Japan are called Japanese. Japanese and Americans are good friends now. Many Americans visit Japan. Some day you might go to Japan. You would have fun in Japan. It is a beautiful country.

Japan lies across a wide ocean from our country. It is called the Pacific Ocean. People used to travel to Japan on sailing boats. Then steamboats began to cross the ocean. It took a steamboat three weeks to cross the ocean to Japan.

Now fast airplanes fly from America to Japan. A jet airplane flies to Japan in a day! Japan has become our neighbor.

When it is daytime in America, it is night in Japan. This is because Japan is on the other side of the world. When the sun is shining on the Japanese, it is dark and we are sleeping.

### *Japan Is a Country of Islands*

Let's learn about our Japanese neighbors. Japan is a country of islands. There are four big islands and many small islands.

Honshu is the name of the biggest island. The island farthest north is called Hokkaido (Haw-kie-doh). During the winter it is very cold on this island. There is lots of snow. The names of the other large islands are Shikoku (Shee-Kaw-Koo) and Kyushu (Kyoo-Shoo). Winters are not very cold on Kyushu. The weather is warm enough so that oranges can be grown.

The weather in Japan is like the weather in America. In the north it is very cold in winter. In the south the weather is not as cold.

There are many mountains in Japan. The mountains are covered with trees. Some of the mountains are vol-





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canoes. This means that fire and smoke come from the top of the mountain.

Do you see the picture of the mountain with snow on its top? The Japanese love this mountain. It is the highest mountain in Japan and is named Mount Fuji.

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### *A Japanese House*

There is a picture of a Japanese house on this page. Houses in Japan are not like our houses. The people of Japan are different from Americans in some ways.



Japanese use paper doors and paper windows inside.  
They use glass on the outside of their houses.

There are no chairs in a Japanese house.

Everybody sits on the floor.

There are no beds in a Japanese house.

Everybody sleeps on the floor.

When it is bedtime, boys and girls lie down on the floor. The mother brings out a big quilt. The quilt is put on the floor. Another big quilt is used for cover.

Did you ever sleep on the floor?

This is a picture of our own children sleeping on the floor of a Japanese hotel. They thought it was lots of fun. In this picture you can also see what the Japanese sliding paper doors look like.

Author







Author

The floor of a Japanese house is made of wood covered with straw mats. These mats are stuffed with more straw to make them quite soft. Japanese call them *tatami* (tah-tah-mee). No one wears shoes in the house. When boys and girls come home from school they must take off their shoes before they come into the house. Shoes would spoil the soft tatami. ✓

When we Caldwell's visited Japan, our children often forgot to take off their shoes.



The doors which separate rooms inside the house are made of paper and are called *shoji* (show-jee). Usually there are paper sliding windows, then a window sill wide enough to sit on, and then sliding glass windows on the outside.

When you look at the pictures on page 9, you can see what Japanese windows are like. The yards outside are made into pretty little gardens. Japan is a crowded country and many people are poor. They do not have enough money for big grass lawns.







### *Keeping Warm in a Japanese House*

In the wintertime it becomes quite cold in Japan. Sometimes it snows. There are no stoves in Japanese houses. How do Japanese children stay warm?

In the picture, the Japanese mother has a *hibachi* (hee-bah-chee). When it becomes cold, she makes a fire in the hibachi. It looks like a big flower pot. The fire is made of charcoal. The family sits close to the hibachi to keep warm.



Author

### *Mealtime in Japan*

There are no chairs in a Japanese house. At mealtime everybody sits on the floor. The Japanese mother brings a low table.

When we stayed at a Japanese hotel, the maid brought in the food and put it on a low table. On this page you can see a picture of our children sitting by the table with their mother. You can also see our Japanese maid at the side of the picture.

Japanese children do not have knives or forks. They use two long sticks instead of knives and forks. These are called chopsticks. It is hard for Americans to eat with chopsticks. Do you think you could learn how? Our eight-year-old boy learned, but the younger ones couldn't.

On page 15 there are pictures of chopsticks, a rice bowl, and a Japanese teacup.



Everybody in Japan likes rice. They like fish, too. Sometimes the fish is not cooked. Japanese like raw fish. They like vegetables, too. Often Japanese eat pickled vegetables.

Sometimes Japanese eat meat or fish, but they always eat rice with it. Usually boys and girls eat rice three times a day.





## *Taking a Bath*

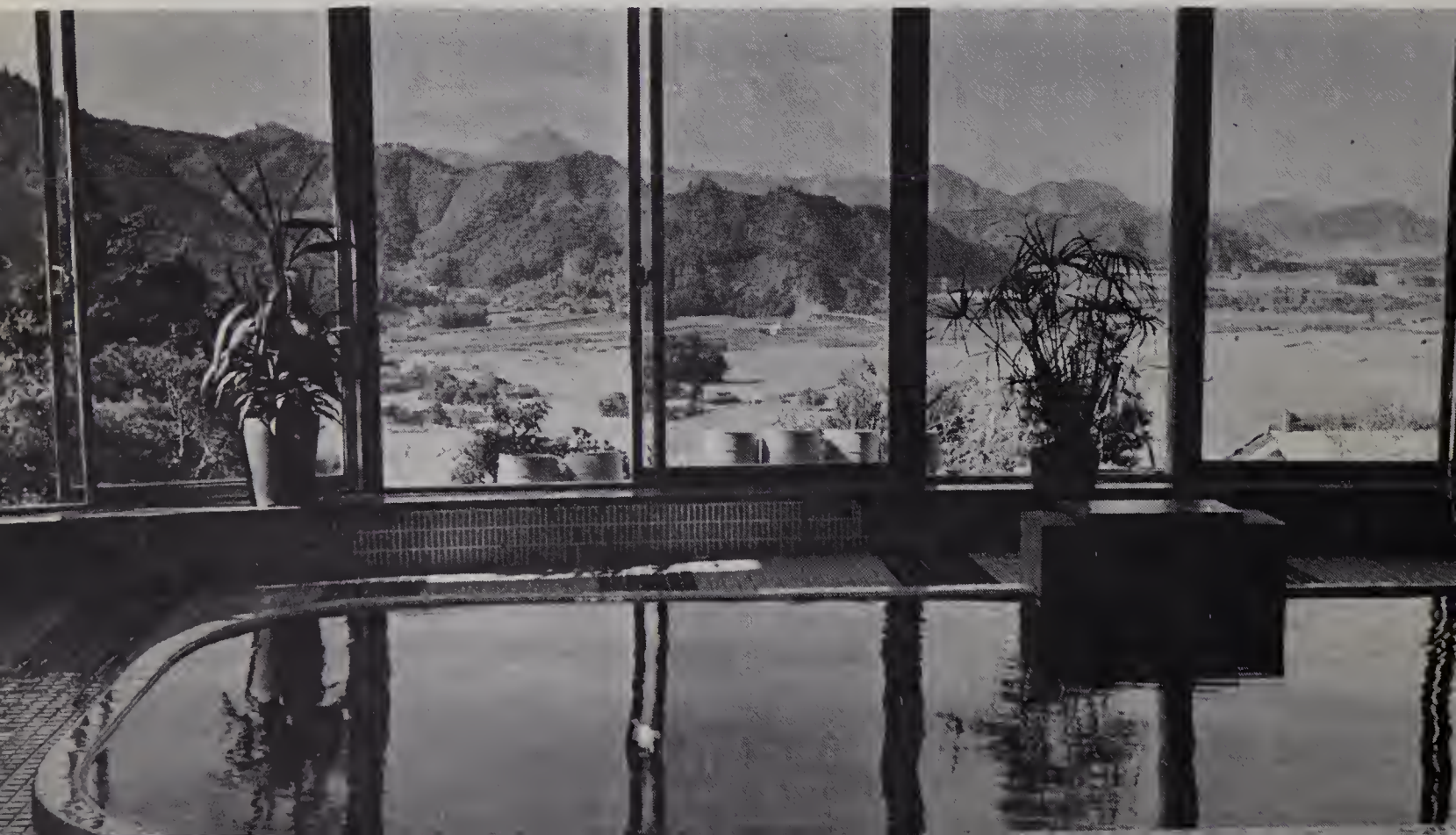
Every house in Japan, even a small one, has a big bathtub. Often there is no running water and the tub is filled with buckets of water.

The tub is made of metal or wood. Under it there is a small fireplace. After the tub is filled with water, a fire is built under it.

No one gets into the big tub of water until he has first washed himself with soap and is clean. Everybody uses the same water in the big tub for a good hot soak; so it is not polite to get it dirty.

There are many hot springs in Japan. At these places hot water comes out of the ground. Japanese who live near hot springs are lucky.

Ian Mutsu



## Japanese Clothes

The two girls in the next picture are dressed up for a party. They are wearing kimonos. Once upon a time, all Japanese girls and women dressed this way. Kimonos are very pretty. A long piece of cloth is tied around the waist. It is called an *obi* (oh-bee).

Women's kimonos and obis are made in bright colors. The cloth may be blue or red or green, and it often is silk. Japanese men also wear kimonos. But men's kimonos are not as pretty. The cloth is cotton or wool, and the color is brown, black, or gray.

Many Japanese men like to put on kimonos when they come home from work. But most men wear suits when they go to the office.

Japanese schoolgirls wear dresses or skirts and blouses, or uniforms. Boys wear clothes just like American boys' clothes. Or sometimes boys wear black uniforms to school. The black uniform has gold buttons and is worn with a black cap. The boys are proud of their uniforms.

People who live in small towns or on farms dress more the way Japanese used to long ago. City people dress more as Americans do. Many people wear shoes, but many Japanese also like to wear *getas* (gay-tahs). Getas are a kind of slipper. A strap going between the





big toe and the next toe holds the geta on your foot.

Some getas are made of wood. When you walk with wooden getas, they make a click-clack sound. Some getas are made of straw, and some are made of rubber.

Americans sometimes wear getas. Big stores in our country sell getas. Some stores sell kimonos, too. Getas are nice to wear around the house or to the beach. Do you have a pair?



### *Going to School*

Japanese boys and girls go to school. Often they wear their getas to school. Some children in Japan wear a black and white uniform to school. Each school has a different uniform.

The Japanese language is different from our lan-



guage. Japanese writing is different, too. In Japanese the word for man is *hito* (hee-toe). It is written like this:



This is a kind of picture writing. The Japanese borrowed it from the Chinese. The Japanese also have two alphabets of their own.

Japanese children learn to write numbers in picture writing. They learn to write like this.



one



two



three



four

That doesn't look very hard, does it? Why don't you try writing one, two, three, four in picture writing?

Japanese children also learn to write 1, 2, 3, 4 the way we do.

### *Pets and Games*

Children in Japan have many pets. They like crickets and sometimes catch fireflies to keep in their rooms. We can see other favorite pets in the picture. The water tanks are filled with goldfish. Each boy or girl can choose the fish he or she wants. Little boys sometimes learn *kendo*. Today this is a sport of fighting with swords the way they once did long, long ago.





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Ian Mutsu





There is one way that Japanese children are just like American children. Everybody likes to play baseball. An American went to Japan to teach in a school. He taught his children how to play baseball. Now everybody plays. In Japan it is called *baysu barru*.

There are big league teams in Japan, too. There is even a Japanese World Series every year. Japanese children are like us in other ways. Everybody likes to go to the movies. Japanese movies are very good, or sometimes people like to see American films. They like to watch television — and fireworks.



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The children in the picture are doing something many American boys also do. They are making a cub scout circle.

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## *Japanese Visit Temples*

In our country many boys and girls go to church on Sunday. Most Americans worship God in a church or a synagogue. Some Japanese families go to church. But most people worship in temples.

A temple is like a church in some ways. There are big images in a temple. An image looks like a big doll or statue. It may be made of wood, stone, or metal. Often images are painted with gold.

There are many beautiful temples in Japan. Some were built long, long ago. Many images in the temples look like a great teacher named Buddha (Boo-dah). The biggest Buddha in Japan is called the Daibutsu (Die-



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boo-tsoo). This means “The Great Buddha.” It is so large that it sits outdoors and you can climb up inside it. The Daibutsu was made many years before Columbus found the New World.

There are also many old castles and palaces in Japan. Once upon a time Japan was a powerful country. There were Japanese kings called emperors who built big castles.

There is still a Japanese Emperor. He lives in a palace in the city of Tokyo. Around the palace there is a big ditch filled with water. It is called a moat. Beautiful white swans swim in the Emperor’s moat.





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## *Holidays*

The most important holiday for Japanese children is New Year's Day. On that day special decorations are hung over the door of each house. People visit each other and eat big meals.

There are other holidays, too.

In March there is Girls' Day. Japanese girls dress in pretty clothes. All of their dolls are put out where they can be seen. All the girls look at other girls' dolls. Japanese children like dolls.

Boys' Day comes in May. All the boys have a good time on Boys' Day. See the big paper fish in the picture? There are five fish on one pole. This means there are five boys in the family.









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### *A Visit to a Big City*

Tokyo is the biggest city in Japan. It is bigger than New York. Tokyo is the largest city in the world. There are wide streets and high buildings. There are many automobiles and trucks. The city is very crowded.

There are many big cities in Japan. There are large stores as in our cities. Americans who travel to Japan in ships often visit Yokohama and Kobe (Koe-beh). These cities are seaports.

Other cities are famous for their temples and old palaces.

Long ago many Japanese traveled in *rickshaws*. Here is a picture of a rickshaw. It is pulled by a man! Many rickshaws are still used in China. Rickshaws are used in India and in other countries too.

But the Japanese no longer ride in rickshaws. Remember that most Japanese used to dress in kimonos. Now many people dress as we do. The Japanese have become much like Americans. Now they use cars and buses instead of rickshaws. There are many bicycles in Japan. There are fast trains. Or Japanese may travel in airplanes.







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### *Japanese Farmers*

We know that Japanese like to eat rice. Most families have rice for breakfast and for lunch and for dinner, too. Children sometimes take cold rice to school for their lunch.

The fields in the picture are rice fields.

Rice grows in water. Rice farming is hard work. Everybody in the family must help in the rice fields. Do you see the wide straw hat the farmer's wife is wearing? Japanese farmers like these wide hats.

Japanese farmers also grow many kinds of vegetables. They grow spinach and cabbage and turnips. Turnips are made into pickles called *daikan* (die-kahn).

In America most grownups drink coffee. Japanese



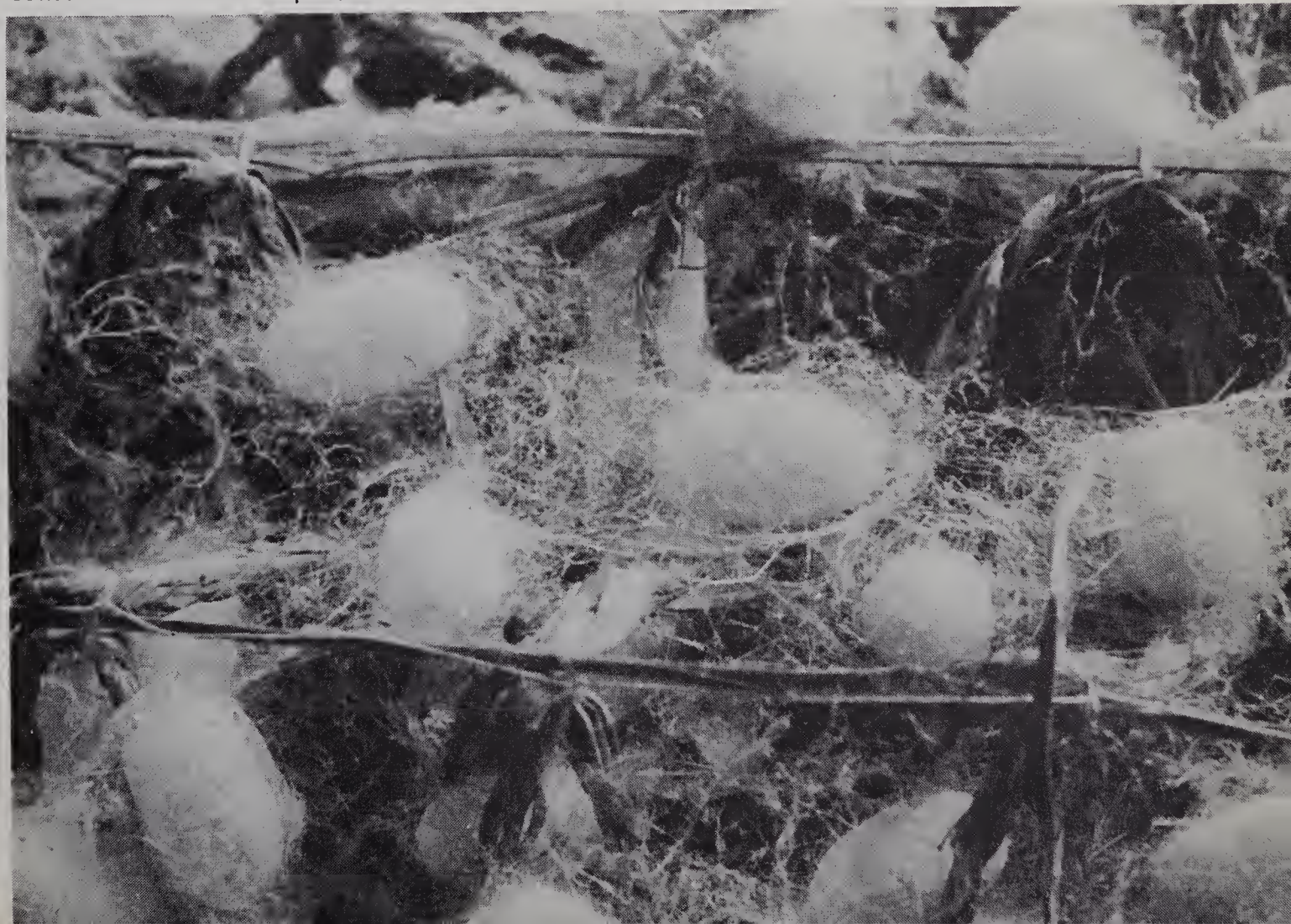
like to drink tea. In Japan even the children drink tea. Many farmers grow tea.

Tea comes from a bush or small tree. The farmers pick the leaves of the bush. The leaves are dried in the sun and in big ovens. When hot water is poured over the dry leaves, we have tea.

The little white things in the picture are *cocoons* made by silkworms. Many Japanese who live near the big city called Osaka raise silkworms. The worms spin long threads of silk.

The cocoons are sent to factories where the thread is unwound. Then the thread is sent to other factories to be made into beautiful silk cloth.

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## *Fishermen of Japan*

We know that Japan is a country of islands. There are four big islands and many small islands. The islands are in the Pacific Ocean. Many Japanese live close to the ocean.

Remember that Japanese like fish. They eat cooked fish and they eat raw fish. Many Japanese are fishermen. Once upon a time the fishermen used sailing boats. But now all the fishing boats have motors.

Japanese fishing boats travel far away to catch fish. Sometimes the fishermen are away from home for many months.

The strange-looking birds in the picture are good fishermen, too. This bird is called a cormorant. It has



a long neck and looks something like a goose. Japanese teach cormorants to fish.

Cormorants can swim under water. They swim down and catch fish. The cormorants are taught to swim back to the boat with the fish they catch. A cormorant can catch many fish in a day. There are wild cormorants in many parts of the United States.

### *About Typhoons and Earthquakes*

Sometimes there are bad storms in the Pacific Ocean. The wind blows very hard. The storms are called *typhoons*. A typhoon is something like a hurricane.

Japanese fishermen have learned to be afraid of typhoons. During a typhoon the wind blows so hard that houses fall down. There is lots of rain. There is so much rain that rivers become flooded. This means that water comes out of the rivers. The water comes into cities and towns. Houses are washed away by the floods.

Typhoons come in July and August and September. Because of the wind and rain, many houses fall down. Often people are killed during a typhoon.

There are also earthquakes in Japan. During an earthquake the ground shakes. Sometimes the ground





shakes so hard that buildings fall down. Each year there are earthquakes in Japan.

Many years ago there was a very bad earthquake. In Tokyo and Yokohama many buildings fell down. There were fires, too, and many houses burned down.

Japanese have learned to be afraid of typhoons and earthquakes. They have learned to make buildings stronger. In the big cities, many buildings are made so that earthquakes and typhoons can not make them fall.

### *Japanese Are Good Workmen*

Many people in Japan are farmers or fishermen.

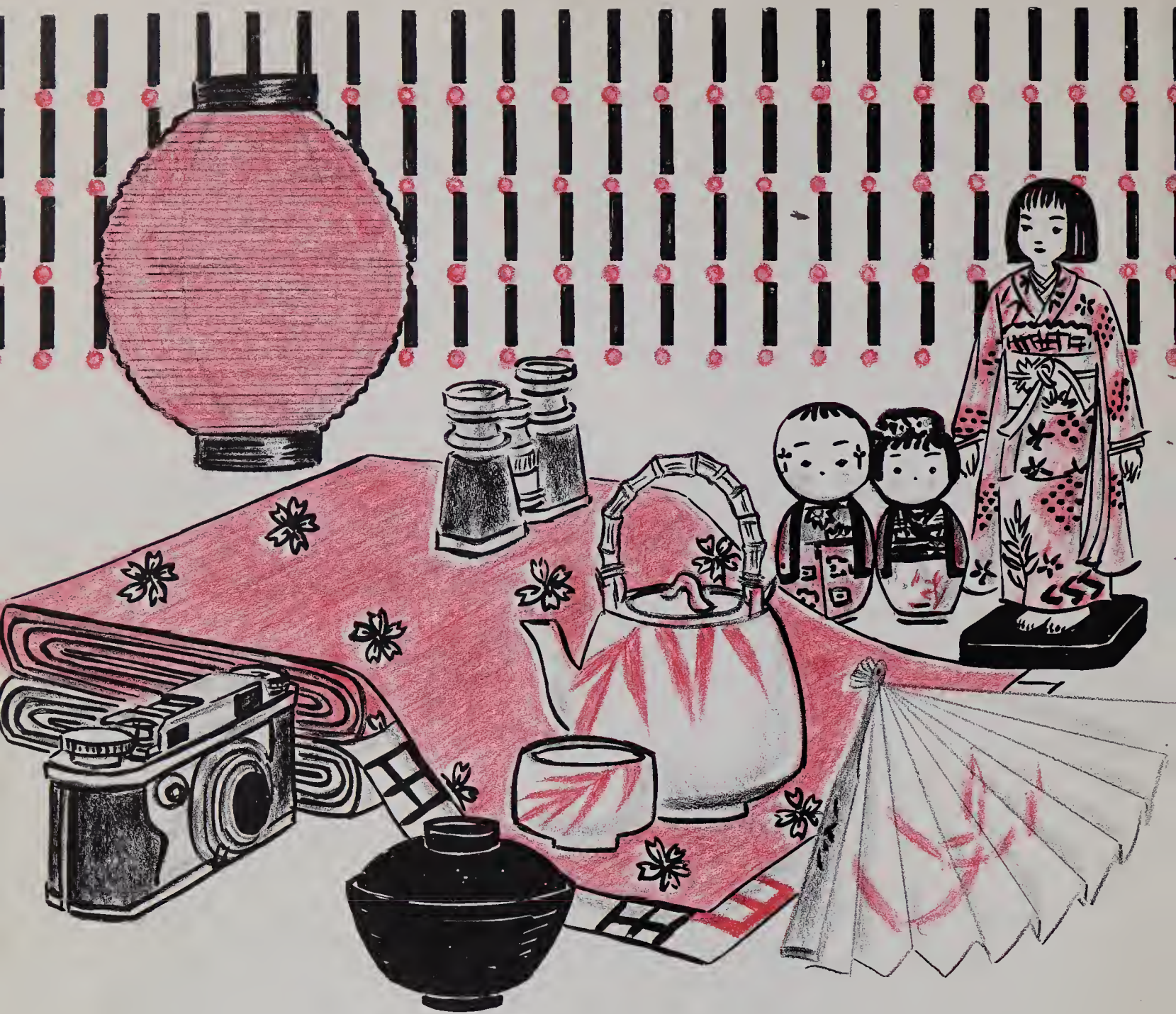


Many men and women also work in factories. The Japanese are very good workmen. Some of them make things in their homes. Many Japanese-made things are sent to our country to be sold in our stores. Have you bought anything which was made in Japan?



Ian Mutsu





Remember you can buy getas in America.  
Japanese cameras are very good.  
The Japanese make beautiful dolls.  
The Japanese make radios and television sets.  
Most of our silk cloth comes from Japan.  
Japanese dishes are very pretty.



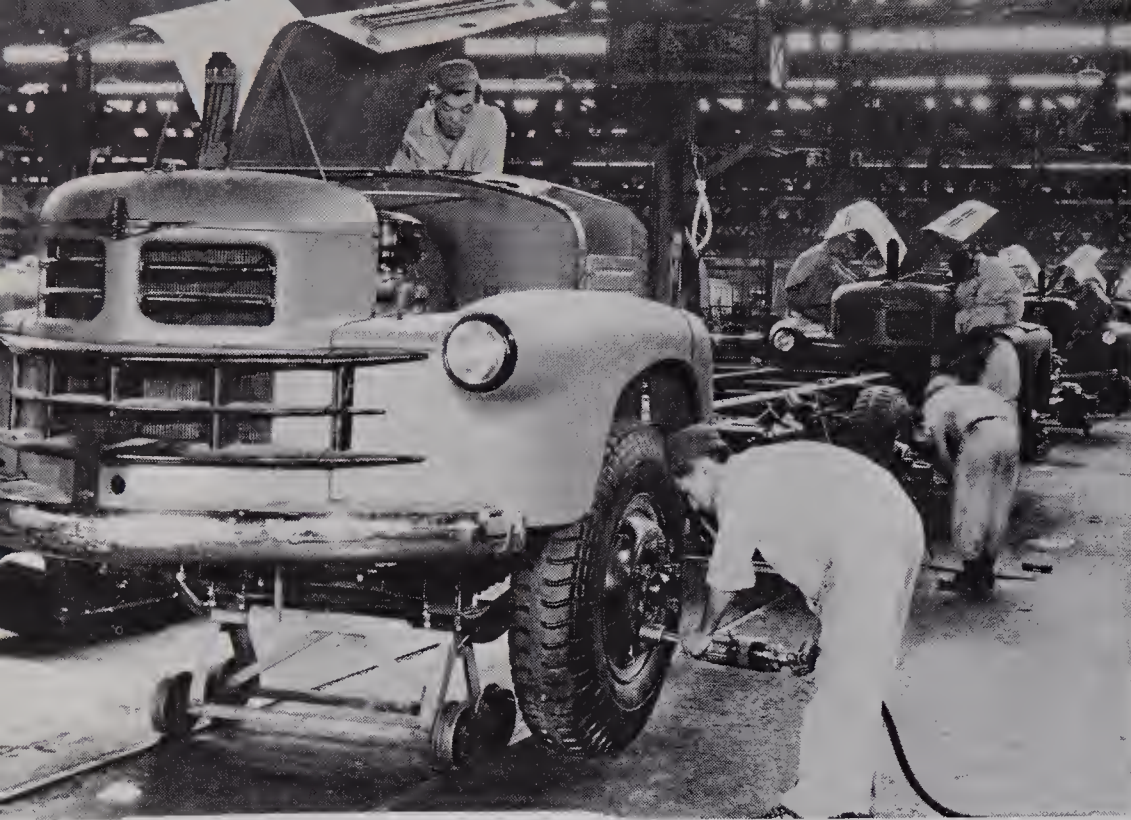
Many toys sold in our stores at Christmas and other times are made in Japan.

Japanese factories make things that are sold to many other countries. More big ships are built in Japan than in any other country. Japanese factories make railway cars, engines and buses.



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### *When Japan and America Went to War*

Once upon a time Japan was a rich country. The Japanese had many soldiers. They had many airplanes, too. Japan decided to fight with other countries.

One day Japanese planes dropped bombs on Hawaii. Many American soldiers were killed. The bombs hit American warships. This began the long war between our countries.

Many Japanese and American soldiers were killed. The war between our countries lasted a long time. Then American planes began to fly over Japan. Bombs were dropped on Tokyo and on many other cities.

Remember that many Japanese houses are made of wood. Some of the windows are made of paper. When bombs were dropped from airplanes, many houses

burned. Factories were also burned.

But the Japanese were brave soldiers. Many Japanese soldiers were killed. Many people were killed when Japanese cities were bombed.

The war between America and Japan went on and on. One day an American plane dropped a new kind of bomb. It was called an atomic bomb.

An atomic bomb was dropped on a city named Hiroshima (Hee-raw-shee-mah). Many people were killed, and almost all the houses were burned down.

Then another atomic bomb was dropped on a city named Nagasaki (Nah-gah-sah-kee). Two big cities were burned down by two atomic bombs.

After that the Japanese said they wanted to stop fighting. American soldiers went to Japan. Our soldiers stayed in Japan for a long time.

### *Now We Are Friends*

Now Japan and America are friends again. Some American soldiers still live in Japan. They are there to help our Japanese friends. Many Americans visit Japan. Because of jet airplanes, the Japanese are our neighbors now. Remember it takes less than a day to travel across the ocean to Tokyo.





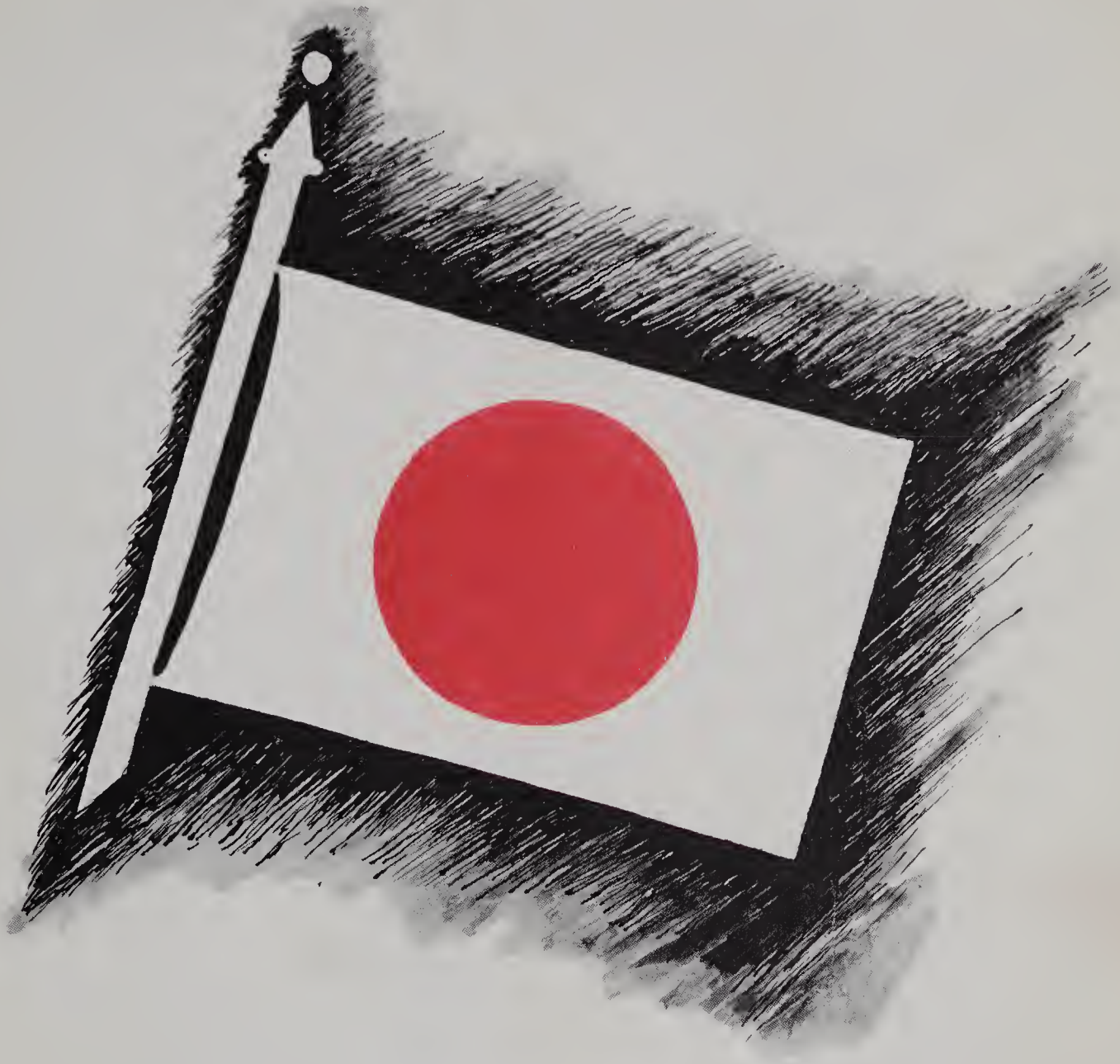
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Americans like to visit Japan because it is a beautiful country. There are mountains covered with snow. There are beautiful temples and castles and palaces. Japan is a very old country. Some castles and temples were built long before the first settlers came to America.

The Japanese call their country *Nippon*, which means "Land of the Rising Sun." They write it this way:

日本

The Japanese flag has a picture of a round red sun on it. It looks like this:

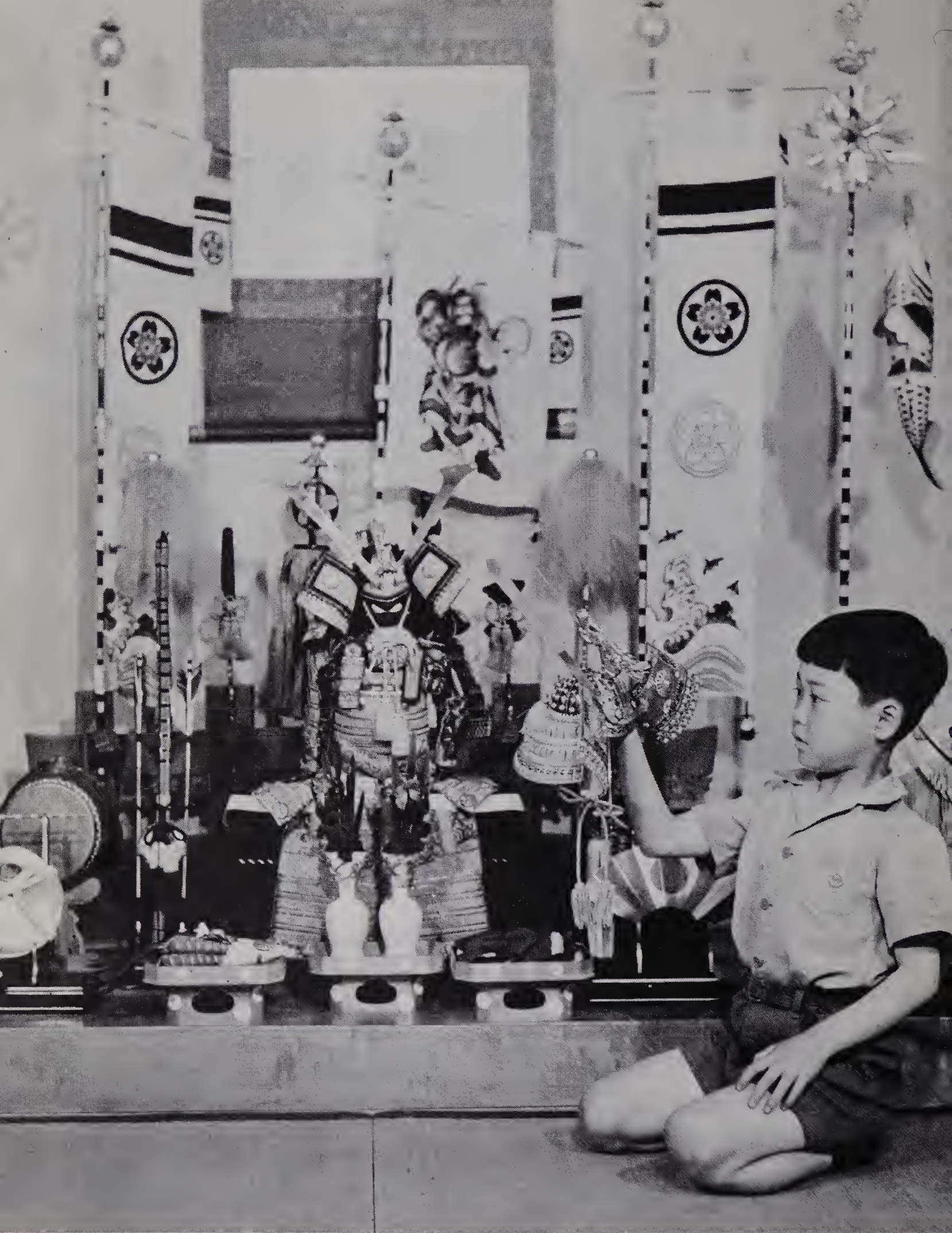


*Things to Remember About Japan*

We have learned that our Japanese neighbors are different from us in some ways.

Rice is the favorite food. Japanese eat rice three times a day. Children take cold rice to school for lunch.







Japanese eat with chopsticks, and they like raw fish and pickled vegetables.

Japanese houses are not like our houses. There are no chairs, or big tables, or beds in a Japanese house.

Everybody sits on the floor. When it is bedtime, everybody sleeps on the floor.

Some Japanese still wear clothes like those used many years ago. But many people dress just as Americans do.

Japanese wash first and then take a bath in the big tub which the whole family uses.

Japanese have a special Girls' Day holiday and a Boys' Day holiday. New Year's Day is their biggest holiday.

Many Japanese worship in temples instead of churches. Many people are Buddhists. This means they worship images of the teacher named Buddha who lived long ago.

Our friends in Japan are also like us in many ways.

Boys like to play baseball. Grownups like to watch baseball games.

Japanese boys and girls go to school.

They like pets. They have crickets and goldfish, dogs and cats.

Japanese children like to go to movies and to watch television. They like comic books.





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Long ago, Japanese traveled in rickshaws. Now people use cars and buses, trains and planes. There are big cities with wide streets and tall buildings. Tokyo is the biggest city in the world.

Japanese are good workmen. There are big factories, just as in America. Many things made in Japan can be bought in American stores.

Our Japanese neighbors are not so different, are they?

## This Page Is for Your Teacher

The vocabulary used in this book has been carefully selected and has been tested by second- and third-grade classroom teachers. Excepting derivatives, proper nouns, and words needed to describe things typically Japanese, all but twenty-three of the words appearing in the book are found in Fitzgerald's *Basic Life Spelling Vocabulary*. All but forty-nine words are found on the Dolch List. Sixty per cent of the words are found in Brittain's 810-word second-grade vocabulary.

### *Japanese Words With Pronunciations*

*Note:* Japanese words, including proper nouns, are listed here in the order of their occurrence in the text. Such words (except proper nouns) are italicized on their first occurrence. For especially difficult words, pronunciation is given in the text as well as here. In pronouncing Japanese, give fairly even emphasis to all syllables.



*Honshu* (Hon-shoo) Japan's largest island  
*Hokkaido* (Haw-kie-doh) Japan's northern island  
*Shikoku* (She-kaw-koo) the smallest of the four large islands  
*Kyushu* (Kyoo-shoo) one of the four large islands  
*Fuji* (Foo-jee) the Japanese word *yama* means mountain; therefore Mount Fuji is referred to as Fujiyama  
*Tatami* (tah-tah-mee) the mat covering of Japanese floors  
*Shoji* (show-jee) the sliding paper doors used between rooms  
*Hibachi* (hee-bah-chee) the charcoal brazier used for heating  
*Kimono* (kee-mo-no) the traditional Japanese dress  
*Obi* (oh-bee) the piece of cloth used to hold the kimono in place  
*Geta* (gay-tah) the common type of footwear  
*Hito* (hee-toe, or Shto when said quickly) Japanese word for man  
*Sumo* (soo-mo) name for Japanese wrestling  
*Buddha* (Boo-dah) Indian religious teacher  
*Daibutsu* (Die-boo-tsoo) the Great Buddha  
*Tokyo* (Toe-Kyo) Japan's largest city and capital

*Yokohama* (Yo-ko-hah-mah) main seaport near Tokyo

*Kobe* (Ko-beh) seaport on Inland Sea

*Daikan* (die-kahn) the popular Japanese pickle made from turnips

*Hiroshima* (Hee-raw-she-mah) the atomic-bombed city, located near the southern end of Honshu

*Nagasaki* (Nah-gah-sah-kee) seaport on Kyushu, also hit by atomic bomb

*Nippon* (Nee-pon) Japan

### *Some Facts About Japan*

The area of Japan is 142,644 square miles, or somewhat less than California's. The population is about 90,000,000, or seven times that of California.

Tokyo is the largest city, with a 1960 population of more than 9,000,000.

The distance from the northern end of Hokkaido to the southern tip of Kyushu is about 1,300 miles.



# KIMIGAYO

## The National Anthem of JAPAN

$\text{♩} = 69$

*p* *mf* *v*

Ki - mi ga — yo — wa, Chi - yo ni — Ya - chi - yo ni

*f* *mf* *v*

Sa - za - re - i - shi no, I - wa - o to na - ri te .

*v*

Ko - ke no mu - su — ma - - de





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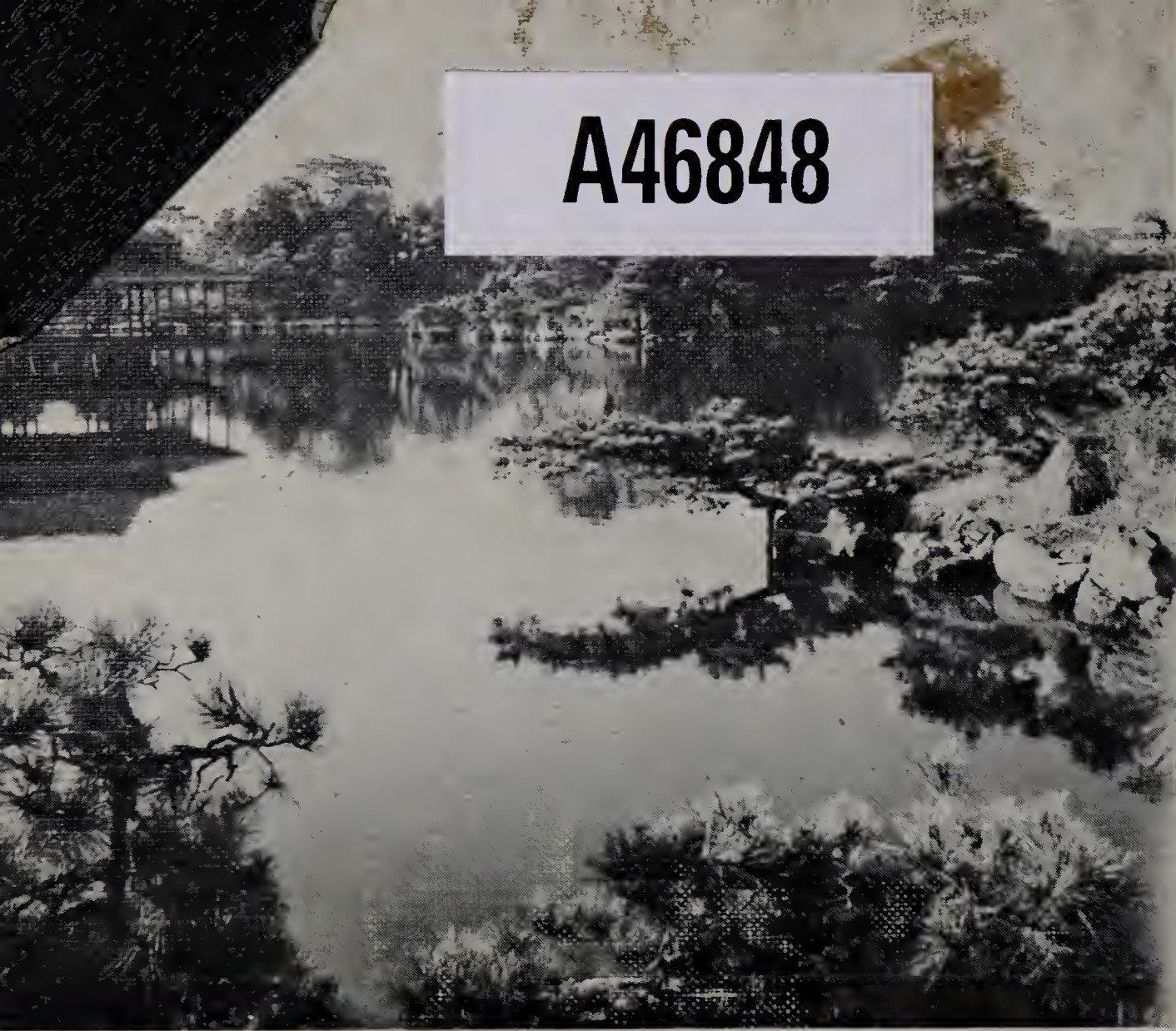
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## The World Neighbors Series

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author of the *Let's Visit* series  
and ELSIE F. CALDWELL

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